

May 3, 1993

[REDACTED]
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001

SHOW-STOPPER: Ross Perot, when informed last week that C-SPAN wouldn't have a spare camera crew to broadcast his congressional testimony on the free-trade agreement, offered through an aide to provide a crew at his own expense. The cable network refused the offer.

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Dear Mr. Lamb:

I am writing to let you know how strongly I approve of your decision not to deviate from your normal editorial and production decision-making process at C-SPAN to allow a politician to privately finance his own coverage (see the enclosed clip from the Wall Street Journal).

I saw you discuss the newspaper piece on Friday's "Journalists' Roundtable" and I immediately realized that I must write to let you know how alarmed I am that a politician or any political group would offer C-SPAN money to cover a particular event. You **must** continue to protect the nonpartisan and noncommercial programming that C-SPAN now represents. Your network is literally the only source of information available that holds this combination of principles, and I include the National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting System.

The well-known admonition, "Consider the source," is one that I try to constantly keep in mind. I believe from what I have seen that C-SPAN meticulously protects its reputation for fairness and quality in programming that always impresses me and makes me turn to it first as my first source of information in depth. C-SPAN is a valuable institution for this country because of its nonbiased, balanced programming.

Mr. Perot is certainly entitled to appear on any other network program that invites him and to purchase his own network air time, just as anyone else is with the means to do so. How can he possibly assume that C-SPAN would accept payment for its air time? He doesn't seem to understand the fundamental nature of the institution or how important it is to all citizens to protect its independent nature.

I have no idea how the Wall Street Journal got their information in the first place, but the fact that they did was a public service in that it reinforced the message that C-SPAN will not be manipulated. Thank you for your diligence and excellence in judgment. Keep up the good work---it is truly appreciated and absolutely essential to our democracy.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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Donald E. Malone, head of C.S. forecasting
for ScotiaMcLeod in New York.

Federal Purchasing Slumps

Also holding back the economy in the first quarter was a 15.3% drop in federal purchases, the largest quarterly decline in 20 years. Ms. Tyson said that such a decrease isn't likely to repeat itself soon, but that the retreating back of defense

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